

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 /073 W

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R 211415Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9209

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN MISSION NEW YORK 2146

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, IS, JO, SA

SUBJECT: AID FROM MECCA TO JERUSALEM

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF ARAB EAST JERUSALEM HAVE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED PROMISES FROM OFFICIALS IN SAUDI ARABIA OF SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL AID TO BE USED TO EXPAND LOCAL MEDICAL FACILITIES AND FUND A PROPOSED PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITY. EAST JERUSALEM OFFICIALS PLAN TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AGAIN AFTER RAMADAN FOR DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MUNICIPAL PROJECTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. EAST JERUSALEM'S UNOFFICIAL "DEPUTY MAYOR" AMIN MAJAJ HAS RETURNED OPTIMISTIC FROM A RECENT TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AS A MEMBER OF AN EAST JERUSALEM MUNICIPAL DELEGATION--HEADED BY EXILED MAYOR RAWHI KHATIB--TO DISCUSS LINKING JERUSALEM AS A TWIN CITY OF MECCA. ACCORDING TO A BRITISH COLLEAGUE  
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WHO SPOKE WITH MAJAJ, FUNDS ARE ANTICIPATED FOR TWO PROJECTS: AN EXTENSION TO THE MOKASSED HOSPITAL AND A PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITY WHOSE NUCLEUS WILL BE A MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATED WITH THE HOSPITAL.

3. IN RECENT WEEKS, WEST BANK EDUCATORS HAVE BEEN

MEETING TO TRY TO COORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON THE WEST BANK. BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY HAS NO PLANS TO GO INTO MEDICINE, BUT THEY ARE CONDUCTING A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING WHICH MIGHT CONFLICT WITH PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITY. BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY, WHICH CURRENTLY OPERATES A SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIGHT MAKE AN EFFORT IN THE AREA OF PRE-MED STUDY IF THE JERUSALEM MEDICAL SCHOOL LOOKS VIABLE. THERE IS NAGGING DOUBT, HOWEVER, AMONG MANY EDUCATORS THAT THE WEST BANK, ALREADY OVER-SUPPLIED WITH GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, NEEDS A MEDICAL SCHOOL AT ALL. NEVERTHELESS, THE IDEA IS BEING PUSHED HARD BY AMIN KHATIB, BROTHER OF THE EXILED MAYOR OF EAST JERUSALEM, WHO HAS REPORTEDLY VOLUNTEERED TO CONTRIBUTE FROM FAMILY LANDS THE NECESSARY SITE IN AT TUR.

4. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUNDS IS LIKEWISE PROBLEMATIC. YEHUDA LITANI OF HA'ARETZ REPORTED THAT THE HIGHER ISLAMIC COUNCIL (HIC) MET JULY 10 AND DECIDED TO SEND A ELEGATION TO SAUDI ARABIS TO DISCUSS AN ANNUAL GRANT ESTIMATED AT \$45M. THE DELEGATION REPORTEDLY WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE EAST JERUSALEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHICH HAS LONG FUNCTIONED AS A QUASI-CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT LOCALLY SINCE THE DISSOLUTION OF EAST JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY IN 1967.

5. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR FA'IQ BARAKAT CONFIRMED TO US JULY 21 THAT EAST JERUSALEM OFFICIALS ARE NOW PREPARING A LIST OF POSSIBLE MUNICIPAL PROJECTS. HE SAID THAT AN EAST JERUSALEM DELEGATION PLANS TO TAKE THIS LIST TO MECCA AFTER RAMADAN FOR DISCUSSION. BARAKAT TOLD US THAT JERUSALEM MAYOR KILLEC HAD INDICATED TO HIM SOME SURPRISE AND DISPLEASURE OVER THE POSSIBLE EAST JERUSALEM-MECCA LINK. ACCORDING TO BARAKAT, KOLLEK WAS SENSITIVE OVER IMPLICATION THAT EAST JERUSALEM NEEDED OUTSIDE FINANCIAL HELP AND APPEARANCE THAT ARAB JERUSALEM NOT GETTING A FAIR SHARE FROM ISRAELIS. BARAKAT SAID THAT HE MADE IT CLEAR TO KOLLEK THAT HE THOUGHT THAT UNFORTUNATELY THAT WAS PRECISELY THE CASE AND THAT HE COULD SEE NO REASON FOR ISRAELI OBJECTION TO SUCH OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE ON ANY GROUNDS INCLUDING POLITICAL ONES. TO BARAKAT, IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF EAST

JERUSALEM AND ALL WEST BANKTOWNS NEEDING AS MUCH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WAS POSSIBLE IN LIGHT OF LIMITED POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING LOCAL TAX REVENUES OR GETTING SIGNIFICANT HELP FROM ISRAEL.

6. MAYOR KOLLEK RECENTLY TOLD CONGEN THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO AN ARAB UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM. HE HAD REFUSED PERMISSION FOR A SITE IN THE SO-CALLED GREEN BELT BUT HAD INDICATED THAT LAND WOULD NOT POSE A PROBLEM. COMMENT: OF COURSE, EAST JERUSALEMITES WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, A FACTOR WHICH MIGHT PROVE MORE TROUBLESOME THAN THE QUESTION OF

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FINANCING OR AUTHORIZATIONS REQUIRED FROM THE JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY.

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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